

December 19, 2018

Trustee Laura Patrick

CRD Director, Gary Holman, Co-Chairs SSIWPA

Dear Laura and Gary,

I have recently spoken with each of you about the concerns that I and my partner Luisa Maffi have long had about SSIWPA, the way it has been run over the past five years. As you know, our concerns have focused on two key points: 1) SSIWPA's lack of vision, direction, and accomplishment (a judgment on which numerous other observers and even some of the SSIWPA participants converge), and 2) the lack of transparency and accountability about the SSIWPA budget over this period of time, with special reference to the budget justification for about 85% of the budget going to pay the coordinator.

You saw our recent articles in the Driftwood about this matter (November 14 and 28, 2018), as well as my recent correspondence with Peter Luckham (November 27, 2018) in this respect. For further background, Luisa and I wish to share with you previous correspondence with the Trust, some of which goes back all the way to 2014, when SSIWPA was just getting going.

We had expressed the same concerns from Day 1 about the lack of transparency in the SSIWPA budget. George Grams's responses at that time remained vague [REDACTED]. Neither did we get any more clarity from Linda Adams when we then went on to addressing the issue to her. We found her response mostly perfunctory and of the "checking the boxes" kind, not at all getting into the substance of our concerns. We are forwarding to you that 2014 thread of correspondence with Grams and Adams in a separate message.

We again expressed our concerns about SSIWPA last year, when the special requisition request for 2018 was going to be tabled. I wrote to Peter Luckham several times, detailing the reasons for our concerns and sending him ample background information (see the two threads of correspondence with Luckham that we also send separately, with the related attachments). In this instance too, however, we felt that the case was not given serious consideration and that the circumstances were not carefully looked into.

Dissatisfied with the persistent lack of proper consideration of the matter, we subsequently decided to forward the relevant correspondence and background material to Minister of Finance, Carol James, who has promised to look into it. This is ongoing at the Provincial level.

As the case has now become better known and understood in the community, we are also aware that our concerns are shared by many more people, including several who have held island governance positions and/or have been closely involved in island water and environmental issues.

As we mentioned to you before, we feel that the matter is quite serious and raises many red flags concerning Trust oversight, use of public funds, payments for services rendered, and actual accomplishments by SSIWPA. It is apparent to us (both as taxpayers and as seasoned professionals in relevant fields) that, before any more plans and requisitions are proposed for SSIWPA, a full investigation is required to shed light on what actually happened and to take necessary remedies for whatever may have gone wrong so far.

Specific questions that should be raised in our opinion are:

- Was this position for a Coordinator advertised? If so, when, where, and how widely was that position advertised on this island and beyond?
- Were there other candidates, and if so, what was the selection process?
- What were the specified qualifications and required expertise for the position, and were those appropriate and adequate for the intended role of SSIWPA Coordinator?
- How was the level of compensation determined? Was it based on an hourly fee that the individual who was hired received for unrelated work on a short-term basis (there is mention in the documentation we're forwarding to you of a fee of \$50/hr.)? In other words, was the compensation for what appears to be (at least from the budget allocation) full-time work for 50 plus weeks/year calculated on the basis of an hourly fee for short-term work (something that would be totally out of line with professional practice)?

- What evidence is there that the tasks (it seems largely secretarial in nature) took anywhere close to that amount of time?
- How exactly was Trust approval undertaken? What checks and balances were applied to the fee, and the accomplishments?

From discussions with several community members, we know that they are appalled that the Coordinator, with no particular knowledge of the subject matter, was accorded nearly the entire amount of the requisition. From what we have seen of the output, there was practically zero value for money expended. And yet year after year the requisition was approved, seemingly perfunctorily, by the Trust. We, and a growing number of other island taxpayer, feel that the matter has been swept under the rug long enough, and that this cannot be allowed to happen again now. The public's faith in the Trust and our other governing institutions is on the line.

We urge the two of you, as current SSIWPA co-chairs, to launch a full audit of the past five years of SSIWPA expenditures of the Special Tax Requisition and what was accomplished for those expenditures, and to communicate the results and any related remedial action openly and clearly to the public.

With best regards,

David Rapport and Luisa Maffi

- ps. three forwarded messages with previous correspondence with the Trust and related attachments will follow.